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Animal cruelty charges filed in Farmington after standoff probe

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FARMINGTON — A local man charged last week for reckless conduct in relation to a standoff faces new charges for killing his dog in a separate incident.

Jason A. Parent, 32, of 32 Grove St., now faces charges of cruelty to animals and reckless conduct. Police say they received information about the dead dog while they were investigating Parent for the March 24 standoff in the home office of his business, 1st Alliance Plumbing and Heating.

That day, Parent allegedly fired two shots from a .40-caliber handgun while his wife and business partner were present, and Parent was threatening them. Police were called and Parent had to be talked out of the house.

"We received information after the original incident indicating that night wasn't the first time Mr. Parent had discharged a weapon inside his house," said Lt. Kevin Willey.

Police allege that on or about March 13, Parent fired multiple shots from the handgun at his mixed breed beagle-hound. "It appears they were in the kitchen and the dog did something that upset him and he subsequently shot the dog in the head," Willey said.

Police located the dog's body earlier this week in the woods behind Parent's home and it was taken to Broadview Animal Hospital in Rochester.

When a search warrant was executed at Parent's home, four bullet holes were found in his kitchen floor and three bullets were located, Willey said. The reckless conduct charges stem from Parent putting people in danger while he shot the dog. Parent has two other reckless conduct charges pending in connection to the March 24 incident. Parent is being held at the Strafford County Jail on \$100,000 cash bail and will be arraigned today at Rochester District Court.

The charges are Class B felonies punishable by a maximum of 3 1/2 to 7 years in prison.